

Message Text

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21

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FM AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1521

INFO AMCONSUL ASMARA

AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM

AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO

AMEMBASSY NAIROBI

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR PINS PINT ET IS

SUBJECT: PRESS HITS RUMOR MONGERS AT HOME AND ABROAD

REF: BEIRUT 12396 (NOTAL)

1. ON OCTOBER 16, FRENCH LANGUAGE PAPER ADDIS SOIR REPORTED ETHIOPIAN MILITARY ADMINISTRATIVE COUNCIL (EMAC) ATTACK ON RUMOR MONGERS, WARNING THEM OF "SERIOUS MEASURES" IF THEY CONTINUED TO REPEAT "TALL TALES." STATEMENT CITED AS FALSE RUMOR THAT ETHIOPIAN ENVOYS ABORAD WERE BEING RECALLED IN ORDER TO ARREST THEM. IN FACT, IT SAID, DIPLOMATS WERE RETURNING TO LEARN AT FIRST HAND TRUE MEANING OF NATIONAL MOTTO, "ETHIOPIA FIRST." EMAC STATEMENT ALSO INCLUDED WARNING AGAINST THOSE OPPOSING EMAC OBJECTIVES, SUCH AS THOSE WHO HANKER AFTER ANCIENT REGIME AND PROFESSIONAL AGITATORS WHO PRETEND TO IGNORE EMAC PRONOUNCEMENTS. FURTHER WARNING ON OCTOBER 17 AMHARIC RADIO ETHIOPIAN NEWSCAST THREATENED STERN MEASURES TOWARDS THOSE WHO MISREPRESENT THEMSELVES AS EMAC MEMBERS OR INVESTIGATORS, THEREBY UPSETTING THE PEOPLE.

2. EDITORIAL IN OCTOBER 17 ENGLISH LANGUAGE ETHIOPIAN HERALD, ENTITLED "EXERCISE IN FUTILITY," CALLED FOR UNITY AND DEDICATION
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TO BUILD NEW ETHIOPIA. IT ATTACKED THOSE, SUCH AS ELF SPOKES-

MAN SALEH OSMAN SABI, WHO CLAIM ETHIOPIA ALLOWS FOREIGN POWERS
(I.E., ISRAEL) TO MAINTAIN BASES ON ETHIOPIAN RED SEA ISLANDS
(CF. REFTEL). ETHIOPIA, SAID HERALD, RENTS NO ISLANDS, HAS NO
FOREIGN BASES ON ITS SOIL, AND "WILL RESOLUTELY PURSUE POLICY OF
FRIENDSHIP WITH ITS BROTHERLY ARAB NEIGHBORS." RE ISRAEL,
EDITORIAL SAID, ETHIOPIA REMAINS COMMITTED TO ACTION TAKEN BY
AFRICAN COUNTRIES AS WHOLE: NO RPT NO DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS.
EDITORIAL CONCLUDED WITH CALL FOR NATIONAL UNTITY AND WARNING OF
PUNISHMENT FOR PREACHERS OF DIVISION AND SEPARATION.
WYMAN

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